



PRESS RELEASE

Baker-Polito Administration Awards Funding for Drinking Water Supply Protection

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

4/20/2018

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

MEDIA CONTACT

Katie Gronendyke



Phone

617-626-1129



Online

katie.gronendyke@state.ma.us

BOSTON — The Baker-Polito Administration today announced \$756,513 in grant awards to five Massachusetts public water suppliers through the Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program (DWSP). The grant awards, administered by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs'

(EEA) Division of Conservation Services, will enable water suppliers to protect existing or new wells and surface drinking water supply systems, such as reservoirs and other water bodies.

“Drinking Water Supply Protection Grants help communities across the Commonwealth provide residents with clean drinking water,” **said Governor Charlie Baker**. “Through continued collaboration with cities and towns across Massachusetts, this support will allow steps to be taken to ensure harmful pollutants are unable to enter drinking water supplies and communities are able to safeguard water systems for years to come.”

Since 2004, the DWSP Grant Program has offered grants to municipal and public water systems to be used for water supply protection and land conservation purposes, such as the acquisition of land, the placing of a conservation restriction, or the assignment of a watershed preservation restriction. Land acquired through the program must be located within existing Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection-approved drinking water supply areas, in estimated protection areas for new sources, or in an area identified through an appropriate planning process as suitable for groundwater recharge to an aquifer. Projects funded under this grant program should also provide appropriate public recreational opportunities to the residents of the Commonwealth.

“The Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program works closely with communities to ensure that Massachusetts residents have access to safe, healthy drinking water,” **said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton**. “The Baker-Polito Administration is proud to provide these vital grants, and will continue to identify solutions that further ensure our public drinking water is safe for consumption.”

The Fiscal Year 2018 DWSP grant awardees are:

- **Northampton Department of Public Works - Ryan Reservoir Complex** - \$34,063 grant award to conserve a 50-acre forested parcel located within the watershed of the Ryan and West Whately Reservoirs.
- **South Deerfield Water Supply District - Conway and Whately Glen Reservoir II** - \$129,950 grant award to preserve 66 acres in the watersheds of the Conway and Whately Glen reservoirs.
- **Town of Ipswich - Mile Lane Wellhead** - \$250,000 grant award to preserve a 14.5-acre forested parcel near Bull Brook Reservoir for drinking water source protection and passive outdoor recreation purposes.
- **Town of Plymouth - Darby Pond Well Protection** - \$162,500 grant award to acquire a 40-acre parcel in order to remove a potential water supply threat posed by an active cranberry bog and improve

groundwater quality in the Darby Pond Well area.

- **Worcester Department of Public Works – Cobb Brook Protection** – \$180,000 grant award to acquire 48.5 acres of land straddling Cobb Brook, which drains to the Quinapoxet Reservoir – one of the largest reservoir in the City’s system.

“Ensuring clean water for Massachusetts’ cities and towns is beyond important,” **said Senate President Harriette L. Chandler (D-Worcester)**. “The Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program is a prime example of good-government work. I am very happy that Worcester and the other communities have received these essential funds.”

“This Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant for the protection of Cobb Brook is an important opportunity for Worcester to maintain its pristine drinking water quality, as the water from Cobb Brook feeds into the Quinapoxet Reservoir, an essential source of water for our city,” **said State Representative James O’Day (D-West Boylston)**. “I’m grateful to the Baker-Polito Administration and the DWSP Grant program for these funds and I’m pleased that we are taking the necessary steps to ensure our community maintains drinking water of the highest possible quality.”

“This grant will allow us to enhance efforts to protect and preserve clean drinking water from the Quinapoxet Reservoir, one of the largest reservoirs in our system,” **said Worcester City Manager Edward M. Augustus Jr.** “We thank the Baker-Polito Administration and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs for their statewide support of clean drinking water initiatives.”

“These drinking water grants are so significant because water is vital to us all,” **said Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester)**. “The magnitude of these water system infrastructure projects requires excellent collaboration between the municipalities and the state to successfully plan, construct, and maintain them; the DWS program is instrumental in keeping our water clean and safe.”

“Healthy drinking water is vital to all residents, and the funding from these grants will ensure the continued protection of this critical resource,” **said State Representative Brad Hill (R-Ipswich)**. “I commend the Baker-Polito Administration for their commitment to the Town of Ipswich and the Mile Lane Wellhead and look forward to the preservation of this environmental asset.”

For more information regarding the program, please visit EEA’s Division of Conservation Services’ Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Program [webpage](#).

###

Media Contact

Katie Gronendyke



Phone

617-626-1129



Online

katie.gronendyke@state.ma.us

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs →

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs seeks to protect, preserve, and enhance the Commonwealth's environmental resources while ensuring a clean energy future for the state's residents. Through the stewardship of open space, protection of environmental resources, and enhancement of clean energy, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs works tirelessly to make Massachusetts a wonderful place to live, work, and raise a family.

More →